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FLOOR DEBATE

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commercial drivers licences require that the driver inspect before and after each time the vehicle is used. So as a result, what this bill does is take this duty from the State Patrol's responsibility. It will not eliminate anything anyone else is doing. The Department of Education testified in a neutral position at the hearing, and explained their four annual inspections and what they are requiring districts to do. We have letters of support from the School Administrators Association and the School Board Association, both of which have told me they will be more than willing to help make sure the districts are aware that the responsibility will now be with them and not with both the patrol and them, and will help assist in implementing any changes that may be appropriate. And with that, I would conclude and ask that this...take this opportunity to, for once, I think it's my first bill to take a duty away from a state agency, but it's an area that I believe is duplication and that we should redirect the use of the troopers to other areas more needed in terms of its law enforcement and criminal investigation. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Thompson. To speak to the bill, Senator Vrtiska, please.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. I just rise in strong support of LB 36. I think that many of us who have worked with school districts over the period of time understand that we are certainly in favor of safe buses and the fact that inspections are needed, but many of us over the years and many of the administrators I've talked to can't understand why we're taking time away from the State Patrol to do a job that is being done by mechanics and people who are knowledgeable about the safety of school buses. So I applaud the bill, and the fact that Senator Thompson brought it here today and I think it's important and it's something we should look positive towards. With that, I thank you for your time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. I also rise in support of the bill. Just want to make a statement, that where I work at Central Catholic, I had the opportunity to assist the